

## Letter of Introduction

Colonel Matt McFarlane  
Commander, 4th Airborne Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division

I want to introduce myself as the new Commander for the Spartan Family. I am joining CSM Terry Gardner, who has been a part of the Spartan Family for some time. We would like to let you know how grateful and humbled we are to serve in this organization. As many of you know, the sacrifices of the Spartan Brigade and their Families over the course of the Operation ENDURING FREEDOM XII-XIII deployment were truly amazing. The Brigade performed magnificently. Our first order of business is to ensure we recognize that sacrifice and performance. We would like to thank Colonel Morris and Yolanda Goins for their efforts with the Spartan Family. We wish them the best of luck in their future endeavors.

The Brigade and its Paratroopers are currently part of a Department of the Army directed "Reset" program. The Army, and all levels of the chain of command, is focused on reintegrating personnel with family and friends, and "Resetting" unit equipment back to serviceable standards during this period. Obviously you are a large part of reintegrating Paratroopers with their families and friends. To facilitate that quality time for Paratroopers to reintegrate with loved ones, we will not plan any training over weekends through March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2012. Generally, all Paratroopers will be off by 5 p.m. and Leaders by 6 p.m. Additionally, if we keep Paratroopers training late or over-night they will be compensated with time off. We are establishing systems to ensure we take care of all elements of the Spartan Family, especially those that are departing the Army or conduct a permanent change of station (PCS) in the near term. We are also working hard to efficiently and effectively welcome new Families to the Brigade.

For your awareness we have scheduled the following three/four day weekends and Block Leave for the Brigade over the next several months. Not all Paratroopers will be able to take the full block leave period and some will have to work over the long weekends due to schools, taskings, and other missions.

Christmas 22-25DEC  
Martin Luther King, Jr. 18-21JAN  
April Three Day 19-21APR  
4<sup>th</sup> of July 4-7JUL

New Year's 29DEC-01JAN  
President's Day 15-18FEB  
June Three Day 21-23JUN

Brigade Holiday Block Leave 07DEC12 to 06JAN13

Please note, we will execute an Intensive Training Cycle 13MAY-20JUN. Expect your Paratrooper to be in the field for this entire period. This training will take precedence over the Memorial Day weekend.

We post the latest pictures and information to keep you informed on the [Spartan Facebook](#) page. The [Brigade website](#) and the [JBER website](#) also offer a variety of information on the local community. We encourage you to visit each to stay connected to the Spartan Brigade.

Again, CSM Gardner and I are truly honored to be a part of the Spartan Team. We look forward to communicating with all of you as we ensure the Brigade is ready for whatever mission our Nation requests us to do. We are available anytime, day or night, if you have questions or concerns about this unit or your Paratrooper. We can't thank you enough for your sacrifice in support of our Nation, the Spartan Team and, especially, your Paratrooper.

All the Way! Arctic Tough! Sparta Lives!

Colonel Matthew McFarlane